



State of Utah

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NEWS RELEASE

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Schools Eligible for Funds to Retrofit Busses

Salt Lake City, Utah – School districts across the state are eligible to receive funding to retrofit diesel-powered school buses with pollution control devices – a deal made possible through a partnership between community groups, agencies, and the Utah Division of Air Quality (DAQ).

Armed with an anticipated \$2.3 million in grants, DAQ will offer school districts the chance to apply for funding to install cleaner technology on school buses built between 1993 and 2006.

“Thanks to the partnership efforts we’ve been able to secure the funding to begin the process of retrofitting school buses likely to begin in early 2009,” said Cheryl Heying, director of DAQ.

The funding includes \$400,000 from the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant, about \$96,000 from DAQ, and \$100,000 provided by the 2008 Legislature. It also includes \$750,000 each from Salt Lake and Utah counties. The money will be spent to purchase the recommended technology – diesel oxidation catalyst and closed crankcase ventilation systems – intended to reduce tailpipe emissions that capture pollutants. The devices are about \$2,000 per bus, including the cost of installation performed by the vendor.

“Not only does the outside air receive the benefit of reduced pollutants, but the air children breathe on the bus will be cleaner as well,” Heying said.

The partners include: Department of Environmental Quality’s Division of Air Quality, Utah State Office of Education, Salt Lake County’s mayor’s office, EPA, Utah Clean Cities, Utah Department of Transportation, Wasatch Front Regional Council, Mountainland Association of Governments, Utah Moms for Clean Air, Wasatch Clean Air Coalition, and Utah County.

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